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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/900,415      | 07/06/2001  | Grover M. Blackwell  | 2111.001            | 4993             |

7590 11/22/2002

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EXAMINER

HORTON, YVONNE MICHELE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|   |                                      |   |   |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <h2 style="margin: 0;">Office Action Summary</h2>   | Application No.<br><b>09/900,415</b> | Applicant(s)<br><b>GROVER M. BLACKWELL ET AL.</b> |   |  |
|   | Examiner<br><b>YVONNE M. HORTON</b>  | Art Unit<br><b>3635</b>                           |  |  |
| <i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>  |                                      |   |   |  |
| <b>Period for Reply</b><br>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).</li> <li>- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</li> </ul> |                                      |   |   |  |
| <b>Status</b>   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>Aug 13, 2002</u>  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL.      2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| <b>Disposition of Claims</b>  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-19</u> is/are pending in the application.  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-6 and 13-19</u> is/are rejected.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 7) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>7-12</u> is/are objected to.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  |                                      |   |   |  |
| <b>Application Papers</b>   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner.<br>Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner.<br>If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.  |                                      |   |   |  |
| <b>Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120</b>  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).<br>a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:<br>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.<br>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.<br>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).<br>*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).<br>a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.  |                                      |   |   |  |
| <b>Attachment(s)</b>  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |                                      |   |   |  |
| 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)   |                                      |   |   |  |
| 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |                                      |   |   |  |

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-6 and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent #6,470,639 to HORN et al.

In reference to claim 1, HORN et al. discloses the use of a window covering (320) including a first plane of PVC material (282), a second plane of PVC material (300,302), a polycarbonate core (290) disposed therebetween the first (282) and second (300,302) PVC materials, at least one stile (284) disposed in contact with both the first (282) and second materials (300,302); and a hinge (322). Regarding claims 3 and 4, the stile (284) is linear. In reference to claims 5 and 6, the first plane of material (282) is secured to the core (290) by adhesive, column 11, line 39.

Regarding claim 13, HORN et al. discloses the use of a window covering (320) including a first plane of material (282), a second plane of material (300,302), a polycarbonate core (290) disposed therebetween the first (282) and second (300,302) materials. In reference to claim 14, the covering (320) further includes a stile (284) disposed in contact with both the first (282) and second materials (300,302). Regarding claim 15, the first (282) and second (300,302) materials contact the core (290). In reference to claims 16 and 17, the first (282) and second (300,302) planes of materials are PVC. Regarding claims 18 and 19, the first plane material (282) is disposed on an exterior of an window surface.

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***Allowable Subject Matter***

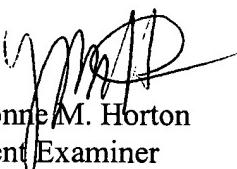
3. Claims 7-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:  
The prior art of record fails to teach the use of a window covering including a first plane of material that is not uniform in thickness.

***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne M. Horton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1909.

  
Yvonne M. Horton  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3635  
November 18, 2002